

S T A T E O F W A S H I N G T O N

Technical Division

POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

218 Bagley Hall - University of Washington

Seattle 5, Washington

Mon C. Wallgren
Governor

June 14, 1946

Jack Taylor
Director

MEMORANDUM NUMBER 167

OIL POLLUTION IN WASHINGTON NARROWS BY

WESTERN GAS COMPANY

To: Nathan Fasten, Chief Biologist

From: Joe Lobberegt, Morland Jones, Albert Young, Investigators

On Friday May 24, 1946, another inspection of the Western Gas Company at Bremerton was made by Investigators Joe Lobberegt, Morland Jones, and Albert Young for the purpose of checking the sump and filters installed at this plant about a year ago.

Upon entering the premises a large oil slick was noticed in the waters around this plant, Mr. R. A. Ritz, Foreman, was contacted, and in his company a tour of inspection of the installations were made.

A careful search revealed a four inch outfall coming from the plant. This outfall was visible only at extreme low tide and from it a steady flow of heavy oil was running onto the beach. Mr. Ritz apparently was not aware of this installation, expressing great surprise when he noticed it. He stated that

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he had never seen the outfall before, and that it must have been installed sometime when he was away on vacation.

An examination of the installed sump revealed that it was not handling the effluents effectively. It appeared exceedingly dirty and uncared for. Apparently no attempt had been made to keep it clean so that it would function properly. Moreover, the additional sump which the company promised to install has never been constructed. In fact, not even a vestige of a start of it was in evidence.

In the opinion of the Technical Staff of the Pollution Control Commission, most of the complaints coming from this region of Bremerton originate from the pollution emanating from the plant of the Western Gas Company.

Inasmuch as this plant is violating the signed agreement to prevent pollution of the waters of Washington Narrows, it's management should be cited to appear before the Commission for violating the State Pollution Act, Chapter 216, Laws of 1945.